

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/616,183

Examiner

Michael V. Datskovskiy

Applicant(s)

HOEING ET AL.

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/10/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 07/10/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Michael Datskovskiy
05/05/05

MICHAEL DATSKOVSKIY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims 1-18 are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or suggest a field bus module assembly comprising: a generally rectangular base module adapted for connection with a fixed horizontal support; an input/output module; and a generally rectangular connecting module for mounting said input/output module on said base module; wherein said base module including: a base body formed of synthetic plastic electrically insulating material, said base body having a lateral portion adapted to extend within a corresponding lateral recess contained in an adjacent second base module, said base body having a horizontal lower surface containing an upwardly extending second recess; a plurality of bus bar electrical contacts mounted in transversely-arranged, laterally – spaced relation within said second recess; a horizontal cover member arranged in said second recess below said bus bar electrical contacts, thereby to define a chamber in the bottom portion of the second recess; and a first mass of encapsulating material filling said chamber, thereby to hermetically seal said bus bar electrical contacts against moisture.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Bergmann et al (US Patent 6,081,048) teach a field bus module assembly PG, Figs. 1-5, comprising: a generally rectangular base module BMU adapted for connection

Art Unit: 2835

with a fixed horizontal support; an input/output modules AS; and a generally rectangular connecting modules ES for mounting said input/output module on said base module; wherein said base module including: a base body formed of synthetic plastic electrically insulating material, said base body having a lateral portion adapted to extend within a corresponding lateral recess contained in an adjacent second base module, said base body having a horizontal lower surface containing an upwardly extending second recess; a plurality of bus bar electrical contacts mounted in transversely-arranged, laterally – spaced relation within said second recess. Bergmann et al do not teach a horizontal cover member arranged in said second recess below said bus bar electrical contacts, thereby to define a chamber in the bottom portion of the second recess; and a first mass of encapsulating material filling said chamber, thereby to hermetically seal said bus bar electrical contacts against moisture.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Lausberg et al (US Patent 6,210,179); Harms et al (US Patent 4,790,762); Nordenstrom et al (US Patent 5,472,347); Emery (US Patent 5,897,399); Saimoto (US Patent 4,995,818); Dooley (US Patent 6,196,862); Zebermann et al (US Patent 6,392,319); Ozaki et al (US Patent 5,322,445) and Piper et al (US Patent 5,984,734).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael V. Datskovskiy whose telephone number is (571) 272-2040. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael V Datskovskiy
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2835

05/05/2005